The Lancet has become a laughing stock

Norman Fenton and Martin Neil
8 hr ago

♡373 134

THE LANCET
Criticism of Pfizer not allowed

In summary:

- On 6 May 2021 The Lancet published a blatantly flawed study of the effectiveness of the Pfizer covid vaccine on the population of Israel, claiming it was 95% effective.
- On 17 May 2021 we submitted a rapid response 250 word letter explaining why the study was flawed.
- After an initial response saying they would ask the authors for a response to our letter we **heard nothing until 20 months later**.
- On 8 January 2023 we got an email out of the blue from The Lancet Senior Editor Josefine Gibson apologising for never having got back to us about the letter, saying that they had asked the lead author Dr Sharon Alroy-Preis (SA-P) to respond to our letter but, because she did not provide any formal response, they have decided not to publish our letter.
- We tweeted The Lancet's response and within 24 hours it got over one million impressions. We also published a substack article highlighting the fact we were now aware of additional problems with the paper relating to SA-P's relationship with Pfizer.
- On 10 January 2023 we got an unsolicited email from Josefine Gibson (which we can only assume was a result of the reputation hit they got from our tweet) saying "Thank you for bringing your letter from May 2021 back to our attention. We are looking into next steps and will get back to you as soon as we can."
- On 11 January 2023 (at 10:58) we sent an email to The Lancet's Editor-in-Chief Richard Horton directing him to our substack article (which highlighted these new problem that The Lancet was clearly t the Israel-Pfizer study and its
- On 11 Januar son apologising for the 'sub s aid that, after discussing it **the original letter or an u current experience**
- On 12 Januar ed 350 words).
- On 13 Januar ing **they had decided aga**

Here is the full na rder (personal details redacted):

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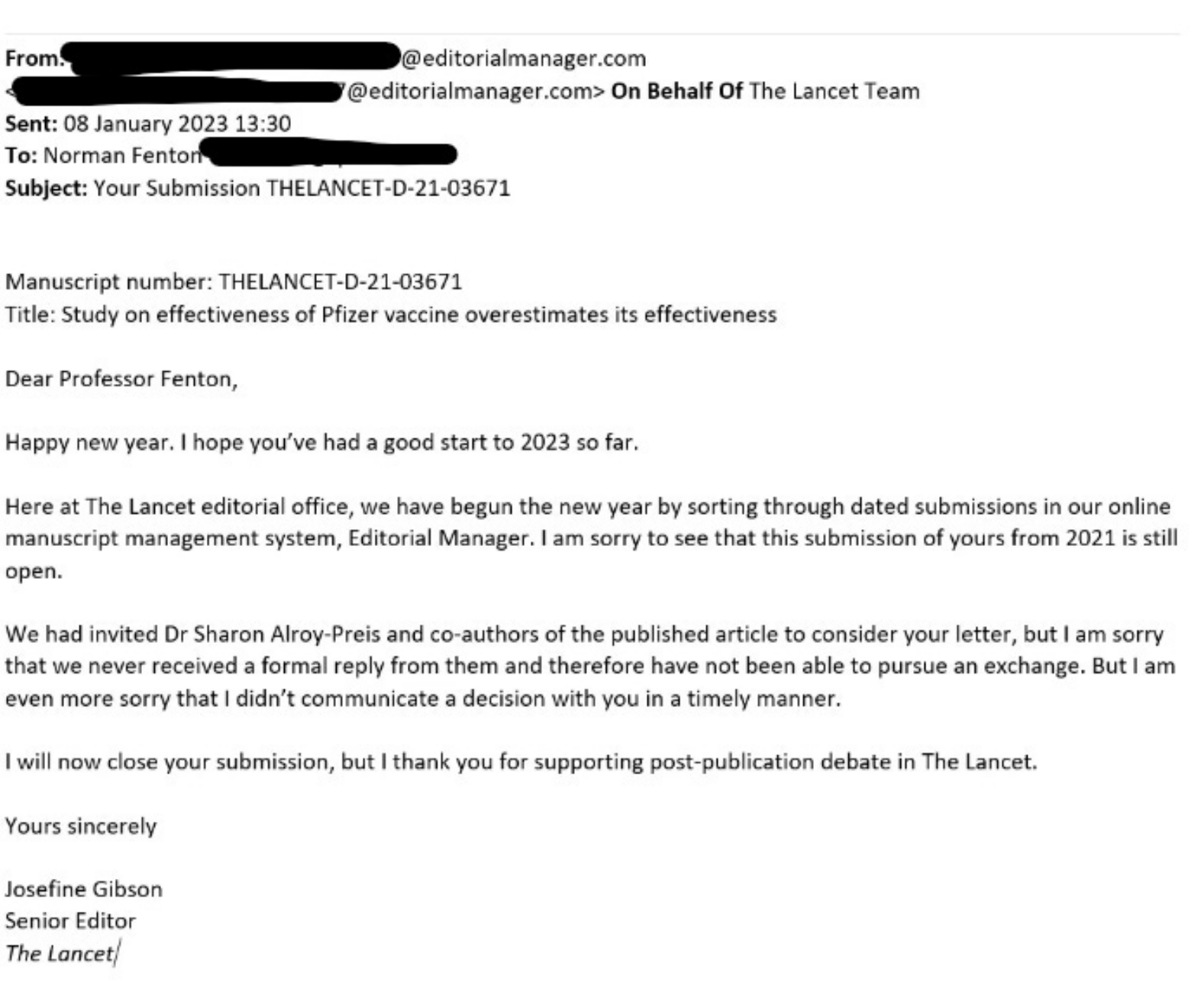
1. The 'out of the blue' email from The Lancet on 8 Jan (20 months after we submitted our original letter which can be read in this substack article):



From: [redacted]@editorialmanager.com
<[redacted]@editorialmanager.com> **On Behalf Of** The Lancet Team
Sent: 08 January 2023 13:30
To: Norman Fenton [redacted]
Subject: Your Submission THELANCET-D-21-03671

Manuscript number: THELANCET-D-21-03671
Title: Study on effectiveness of Pfizer vaccine overestimates its effectiveness

Dear Professor Fenton,

Happy new year. I hope you've had a good start to 2023 so far.

Here at The Lancet editorial office, we have begun the new year by sorting through dated submissions in our online manuscript management system, Editorial Manager. I am sorry to see that this submission of yours from 2021 is still open.

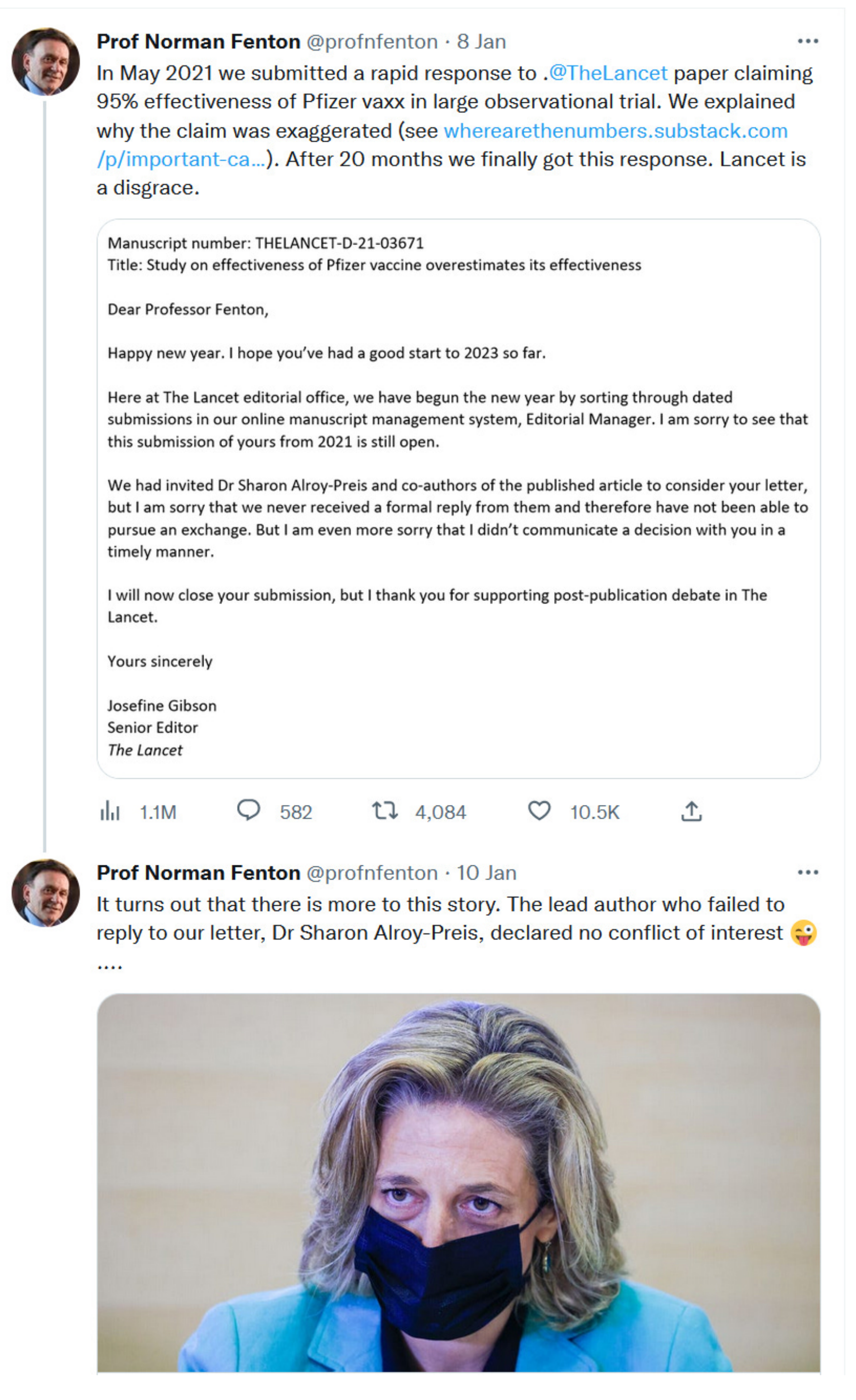
We had invited Dr Sharon Alroy-Preis and co-authors of the published article to consider your letter, but I am sorry that we never received a formal reply from them and therefore have not been able to pursue an exchange. But I am even more sorry that I didn't communicate a decision with you in a timely manner.

I will now close your submission, but I thank you for supporting post-publication debate in The Lancet.

Yours sincerely

Josefine Gibson
Senior Editor
The Lancet

2. The tweet on 6 Jan after receiving the email:



Prof Norman Fenton @profnfenton · 8 Jan
In May 2021 we submitted a rapid response to .@TheLancet paper claiming 95% effectiveness of Pfizer vaxx in large observational trial. We explained why the claim was exaggerated (see wherearethenumbers.substack.com/p/important-ca…). After 20 months we finally got this response. Lancet is a disgrace.

Manuscript number: THELANCET-D-21-03671
Title: Study on effectiveness of Pfizer vaccine overestimates its effectiveness

Dear Professor Fenton,

Happy new year. I hope you've had a good start to 2023 so far.

Here at The Lancet editorial office, we have begun the new year by sorting through dated submissions in our online manuscript management system, Editorial Manager. I am sorry to see that this submission of yours from 2021 is still open.

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I will now close your submission, but I thank you for supporting post-publication debate in The Lancet.

Yours sincerely

Josefine Gibson
Senior Editor
The Lancet

1.1M 582 4,084 10.5K

Prof Norman Fenton @profnfenton · 10 Jan
It turns out that there is more to this story. The lead author who failed to reply to our letter, Dr Sharon Alroy-Preis, declared no conflict of interest 😜 ....

3. Our substack article on 10 Jan highlighting the new issues relating to lead author Sharon Alroy-Preis (SA-P):

Where are the numbers?

The curious case of Dr Sharon Alroy-Preis and the claims of safety and effectiveness of the Pfizer vaccine

Summary: The world relied heavily on a major Israeli study in the Lancet which confirmed Pfizer vaccine efficiency, but the lead author failed to declare her conflict of interest in which she signed a contract not to release information detrimental to Pfizer's product without their permission…

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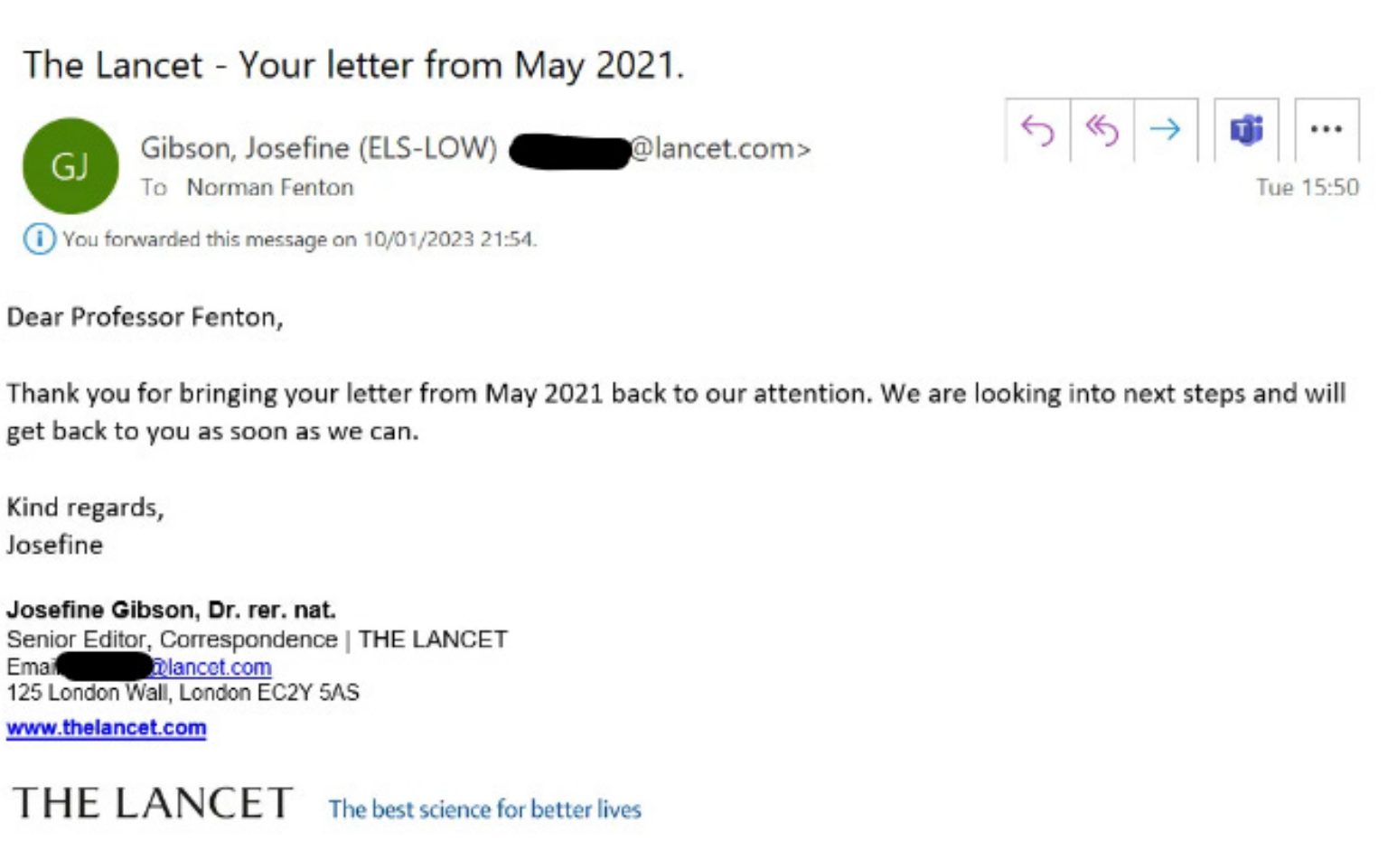
4 days ago · 97 likes · 29 comments · Norman Fenton and Martin Neil

4. The email from Josefine Gibson on 10 Jan (curious and 'unsolicited' because we had not responded to The Lancet's 'rejection' on 8 January):



The Lancet - Your letter from May 2021.

GJ Gibson, Josefine (ELS-LOW) [redacted]@lancet.com>
To Norman Fenton
Tue 15:50
You forwarded this message on 10/01/2023 21:54.

Dear Professor Fenton,

Thank you for bringing your letter from May 2021 back to our attention. We are looking into next steps and will get back to you as soon as we can.

Kind regards,
Josefine

Josefine Gibson, Dr. rer. nat.
Senior Editor, Correspondence | THE LANCET
Email [redacted]@lancet.com
125 London Wall, London EC2Y 5AS
www.thelancet.com

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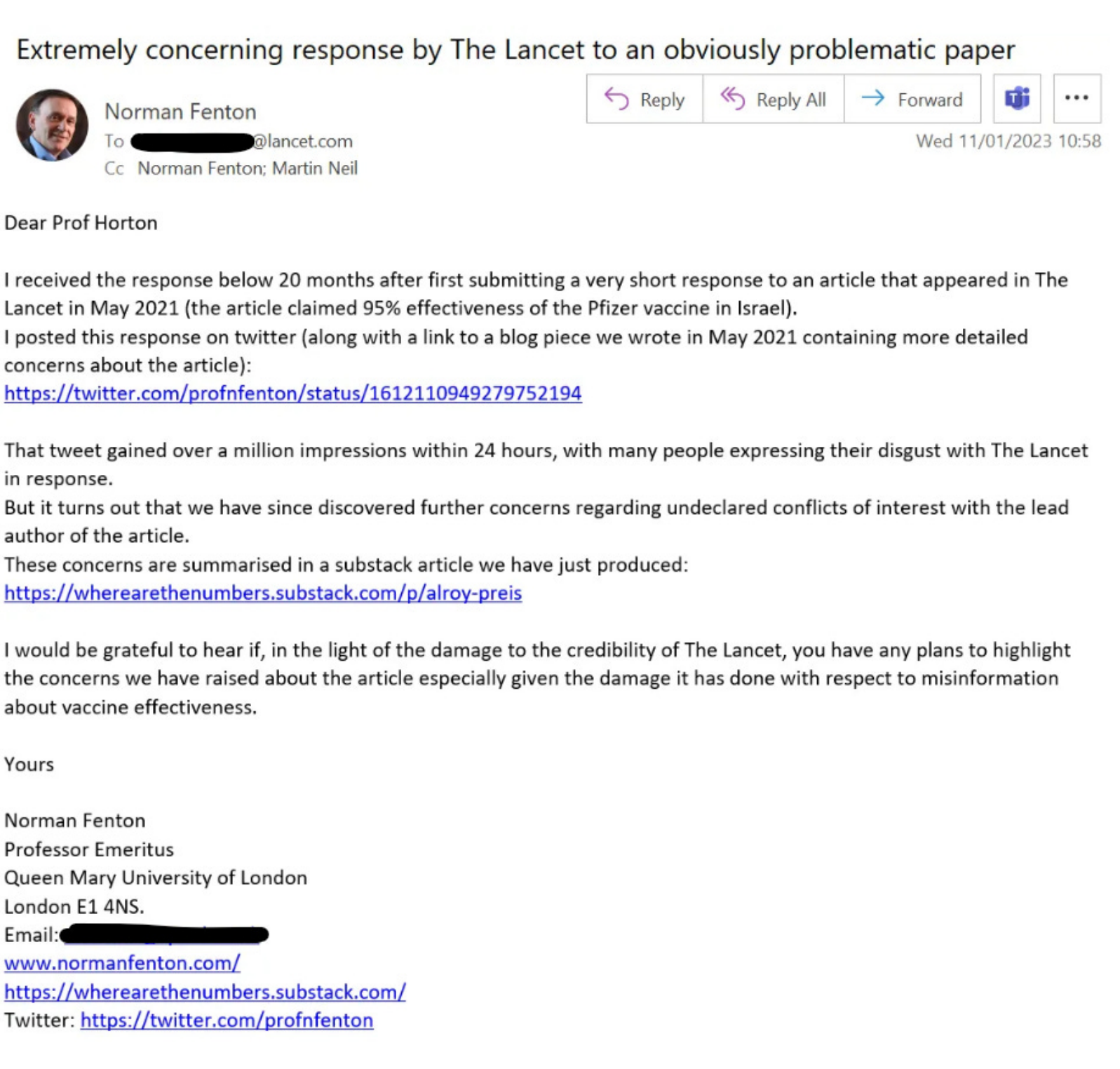
5. The email sent to Richard Horton on 11 Jan at 10:58:



Extremely concerning response by The Lancet to an obviously problematic paper

Norman Fenton
To [redacted]@lancet.com
Cc Norman Fenton; Martin Neil
Reply Reply All Forward
Wed 11/01/2023 10:58

Dear Prof Horton

I received the response below 20 months after first submitting a very short response to an article that appeared in The Lancet in May 2021 (the article claimed 95% effectiveness of the Pfizer vaccine in Israel).
I posted this response on twitter (along with a link to a blog piece we wrote in May 2021 containing more detailed concerns about the article):
https://twitter.com/profnfenton/status/1612110949279752194

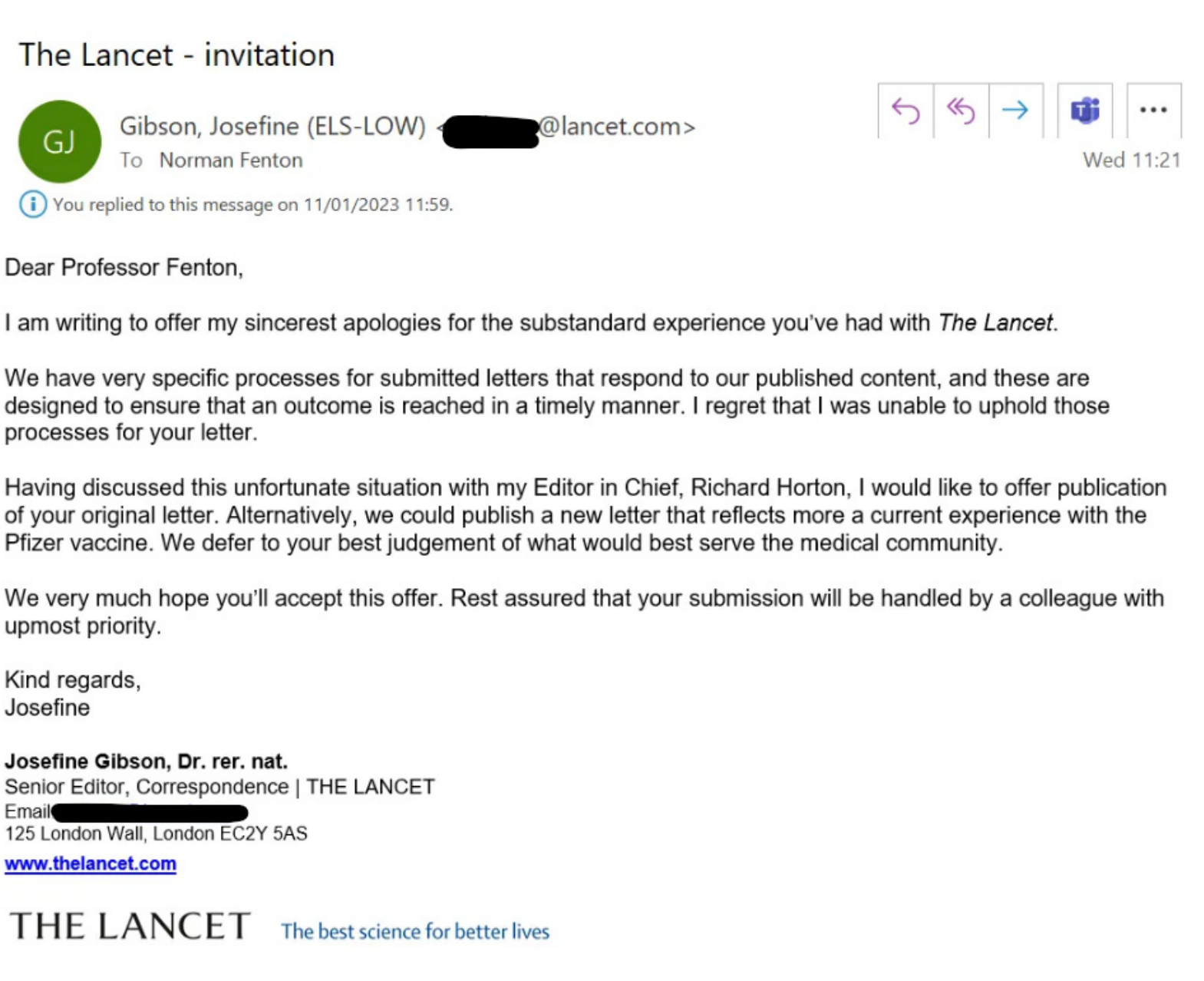
That tweet gained over a million impressions within 24 hours, with many people expressing their disgust with The Lancet in response.
But it turns out that we have since discovered further concerns regarding undeclared conflicts of interest with the lead author of the article.
These concerns are summarised in a substack article we have just produced:
https://wherearethenumbers.substack.com/p/alroy-preis

I would be grateful to hear if, in the light of the damage to the credibility of The Lancet, you have any plans to highlight the concerns we have raised about the article especially given the damage it has done with respect to misinformation about vaccine effectiveness.

Yours

Norman Fenton
Professor Emeritus
Queen Mary University of London
London E1 4NS.
Email: [redacted]
www.normanfenton.com/
https://wherearethenumbers.substack.com/
Twitter: https://twitter.com/profnfenton

6. The response we got from Josefine Gibson on 11 Jan at 11:21:



The Lancet - invitation

GJ Gibson, Josefine (ELS-LOW) <[redacted]@lancet.com>
To Norman Fenton
Wed 11:21
You replied to this message on 11/01/2023 11:59.

Dear Professor Fenton,

I am writing to offer my sincerest apologies for the substandard experience you've had with *The Lancet*.

We have very specific processes for submitted letters that respond to our published content, and these are designed to ensure that an outcome is reached in a timely manner. I regret that I was unable to uphold those processes for your letter.

Having discussed this unfortunate situation with my Editor in Chief, Richard Horton, I would like to offer publication of your original letter. Alternatively, we could publish a new letter that reflects more a current experience with the Pfizer vaccine. We defer to your best judgement of what would best serve the medical community.

We very much hope you'll accept this offer. Rest assured that your submission will be handled by a colleague with upmost priority.

Kind regards,
Josefine

Josefine Gibson, Dr. rer. nat.
Senior Editor, Correspondence | THE LANCET
Email [redacted]
125 London Wall, London EC2Y 5AS
www.thelancet.com

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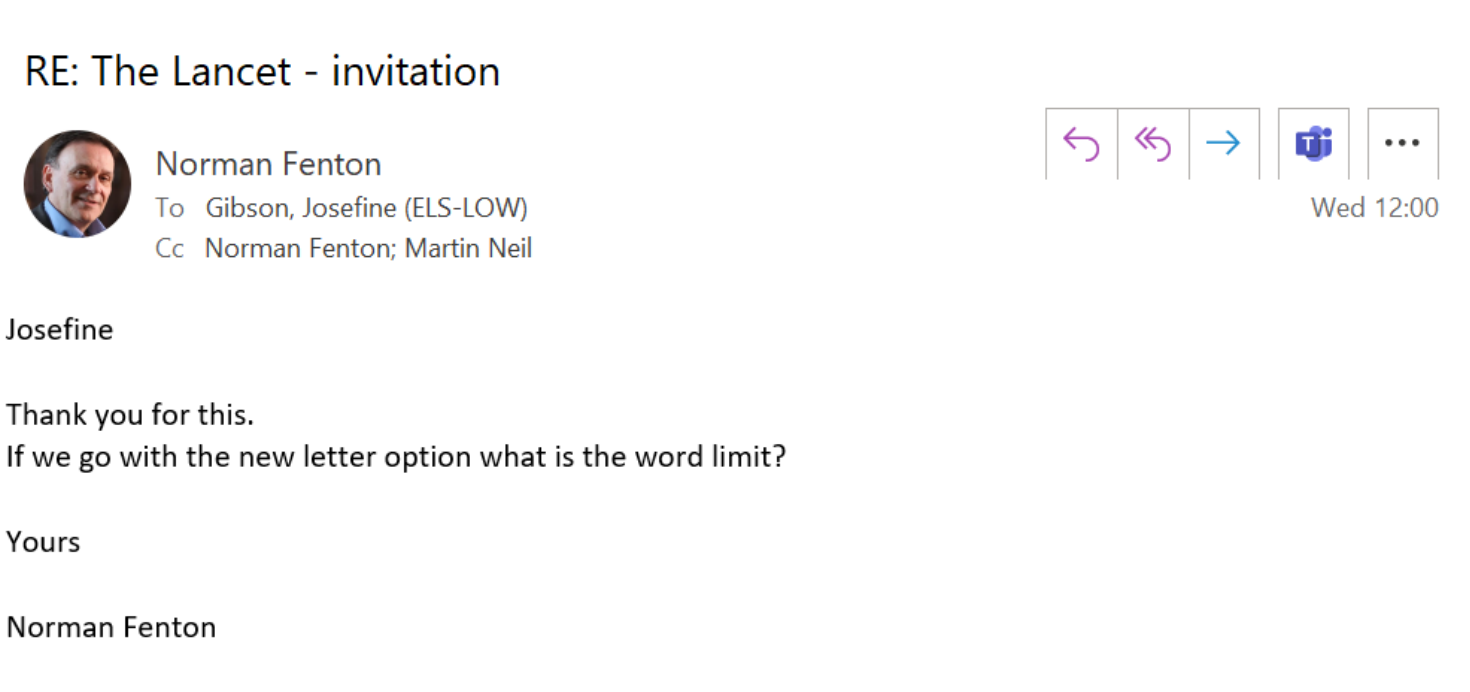
7. Our response:



RE: The Lancet - invitation

Norman Fenton
To Gibson, Josefine (ELS-LOW)
Cc Norman Fenton; Martin Neil
Wed 12:00

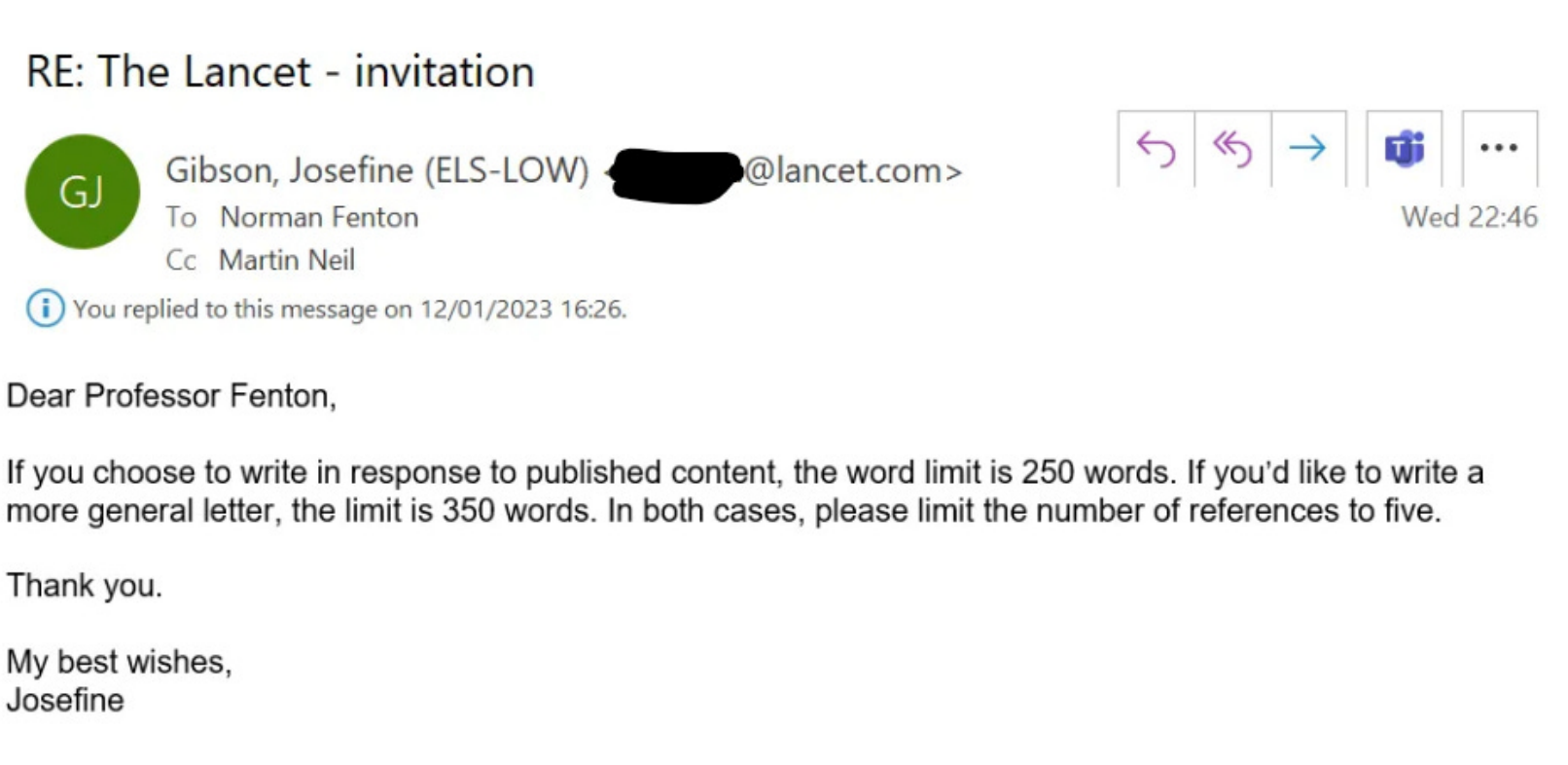
Josefine

Thank you for this.
If we go with the new letter option what is the word limit?

Yours

Norman Fenton

8. Lancet agreement to a 350-word new letter with limit of 5 references:



RE: The Lancet - invitation

GJ Gibson, Josefine (ELS-LOW) [redacted]@lancet.com>
To Norman Fenton
Cc Martin Neil
Wed 22:46
You replied to this message on 12/01/2023 16:26.

Dear Professor Fenton,

If you choose to write in response to published content, the word limit is 250 words. If you'd like to write a more general letter, the limit is 350 words. In both cases, please limit the number of references to five.

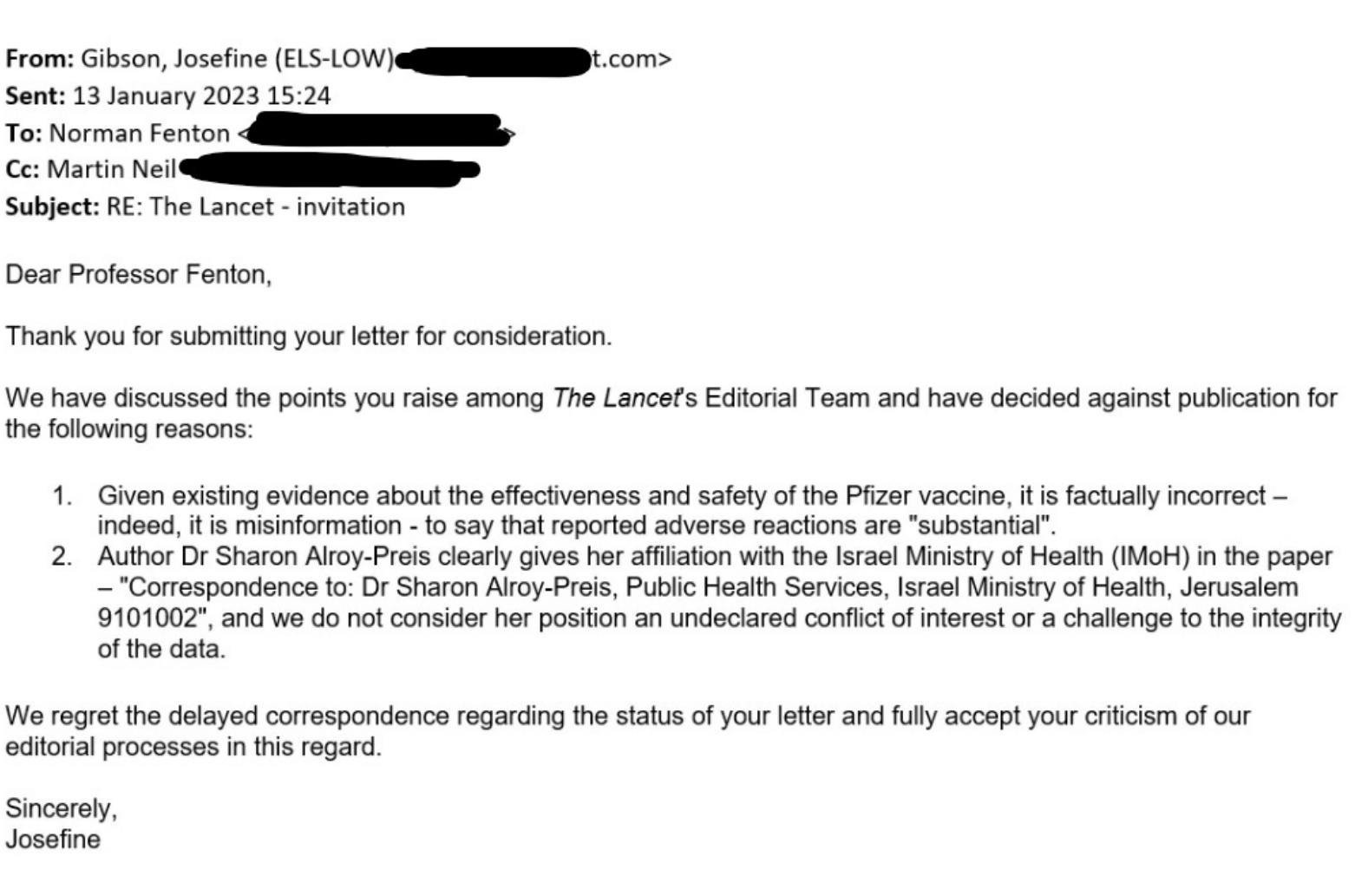
Thank you.

My best wishes,
Josefine

9. Our letter submitted on 12 Jan (349 words):

> **Misleading Claims in study of Pfizer vaccine effectiveness**
>
> **Norman Fenton and Martin Neil, 12 Jan 2023**
>
> An article about Israel's experience with the Pfizer covid-19 vaccine was published in The Lancet in May 2021, [1]. We wrote a response letter, [2], explaining why its claim of 95% effectiveness was exaggerated, pointing out that the study failed to adjust for a declining infection rate, and for the very different testing protocols applied to vaccinated versus unvaccinated people. The study also ignored all covid cases reported for people who had received either just a single or a second dose less than seven days previously; such people were not considered 'fully vaccinated', inevitably leading to an exaggeration of vaccine effectiveness [3].
>
> These concerns expressed 20 months ago, have been borne out by data confirming how exaggerated the effectiveness claim was.
>
> The Lancet sent our letter to the lead author of the study, Sharon Alroy-Preis (SA-P), for comment but she did not respond to the criticisms, so the Lancet did not publish it.
>
> We have further concerns about the integrity of the article. SA-P was not among the 8 of 15 authors who declared holding share and stock options in Pfizer; she also declared no conflict of interest. Yet, she is Head of Public Health Services at the Israeli Ministry of Health (IMOH) during the period when Israel became the 'laboratory for Pfizer' [4]. The relationship between Pfizer and the IMOH (starting 6 Jan 2021, four months before the Lancet article was published) is laid out in their collaboration agreement [5] which makes clear results cannot be made public without both parties' approval, and names SA-P as the IMOH appointee responsible for managing this relationship with Pfizer.
>
> The Lancet article provided no information about the vaccine's adverse reactions which we now know are substantial. In her presentation to the FDA expert committee about the booster, SA-P claimed Israel monitors safety closely, whereas we now know they did not have a functioning system until the end of 2021 [4].
>
> Hence, we feel that the paper's findings – which led many to believe the Pfizer vaccine was extremely safe and effective - are severely compromised and that the article should be retracted.
>
> **References**
>
> [1] Haas et al: "Impact and effectiveness of mRNA BNT162b2 vaccine against SARS-CoV-2 infections and COVID-19 cases, hospitalisations, and deaths following a nationwide vaccination campaign in Israel: an observational study using national surveillance data" https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(21)00947-8
>
> [2] Fenton NE and Neil M "Is the Pfizer vaccine as effective as claimed?", 17 May 2021. https://wherearethenumbers.substack.com/important-caveats-to-pfizer-vaccine
>
> [3] Neil M, Fenton N, Smalley J., Craig C., Guetzkow J., McLachlan S., Rose, J. Latest statistics on England mortality data suggest systematic mis-categorisation of vaccine status and uncertain effectiveness of Covid-19 vaccination, December 2021. http://dx.doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.14176.20483
>
> [4] Fenton NE and Neil M, "The curious case of Dr Sharon Alroy-Preis and the claims of safety and effectiveness of the Pfizer vaccine".
>
> https://wherearethenumbers.substack.com/p/alroy-preis
>
> [5] Real-world epidemiological evidence collaboration agreement between the Israeli Ministry of Health, acting on behalf of the State of Israel and Pfizer Inc, 6 Jan 2021. https://govextra.gov.il/media/30806/11221-moh-pfizer-collaboration-agreement-redacted.pdf

10. The Lancet's rejection of the letter, they invited, on 13 January:



From: Gibson, Josefine (ELS-LOW)[redacted]t.com>
Sent: 13 January 2023 15:24
To: Norman Fenton <[redacted]>
Cc: Martin Neil[redacted]
Subject: RE: The Lancet - invitation

Dear Professor Fenton,

Thank you for submitting your letter for consideration.

We have discussed the points you raise among *The Lancet*'s Editorial Team and have decided against publication for the following reasons:

1. Given existing evidence about the effectiveness and safety of the Pfizer vaccine, it is factually incorrect – indeed, it is misinformation - to say that reported adverse reactions are "substantial".
2. Author Dr Sharon Alroy-Preis clearly gives her affiliation with the Israel Ministry of Health (IMoH) in the paper – "Correspondence to: Dr Sharon Alroy-Preis, Public Health Services, Israel Ministry of Health, Jerusalem 9101002", and we do not consider her position an undeclared conflict of interest or a challenge to the integrity of the data.

We regret the delayed correspondence regarding the status of your letter and fully accept your criticism of our editorial processes in this regard.

Sincerely,
Josefine

So, there you have it. We are dubbed misinformation spreaders because The Lancet have unique access to the truth, and furthermore the integrity of the Israeli trial data is placed beyond question even though the Israeli public health apparatchik, SA-P, who is supposed to be independent of corporate interests, is legally bound to publish results approved by Pfizer.

Of course, our experience is just one of many cases of corruption by The Lancet.

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This is a MASTERPIECE. A -> B. No misinterpretation possible.
♡ 27 Reply Gift a subscription Collapse

1 reply

Igor Chudov Writes Igor's Newsletter 7 hr ago Liked by Norman Fenton
I am outraged, but NOT surprised, sadly! Amazing story showing the depths of their corruption.
♡ 80 Reply Gift a subscription Collapse

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